



Student and Support Services

Department of Defense
Dependents Schools - Europe





Our Goal. . .

Maintain a safe and secure school environment which creates stability in the lives of military families and students so that learning continues as normal.



DoDDS-Europe Reads...



DoDDS Lessons Learned

- Impact on Academics
 - SAT Scores
 - CTBS Scores
 - Individual Grades
- Impact on/in Classrooms
 - Separation Anxiety
 - School Refusal
 - Attendance Decline
 - Illness
 - Family Trips
 - Early PCS
- Community Factors
 - Guardian Families
 - Caretakers
 - Casualties





DoDDS Lesson Learned

Stages of Deployment

- **The Emotional Cycle of Deployment: Military Family Perspective *U.S. Army Medical Department Journal (April 2001)****
 - Pre-deployment
 - Deployment
 - Sustainment**
 - Re-deployment **
 - Post-deployment **
- Each stage is characterized both by a time frame and specific emotional challenges -- which are often evident in the school.
- Failure to adequately negotiate these challenges can lead to significant strife -- which is often evident in the school
- Promoting understanding of the stages of deployment helps to avert crises, minimize the need for command intervention or mental health counseling.
- *<http://call.army.mil/products/trngqtr/tq2-02/pincus.htm>



DoDDS Lesson Learned:

Deployment/Sustainment Behaviors

- School age children (6-12 years)
 - May whine, complain, become aggressive or otherwise "act out" their feelings.
 - May focus on the soldier-parent missing a key event
 - Reactions may include: sleep disturbance, loss of interest in school, eating or even playing with their friends.
 - Need to talk about their feelings/need more physical attention than usual.
 - Expectations regarding school performance may need to be a little lower, but keeping routines as close to normal is best for them



DoDDS Lesson Learned:

Deployment/Sustainment Behaviors

- Teenagers (13-18 years)
 - May be irritable, rebellious, or participate in other attention-getting behavior.
 - May show a lack of interest in school, peers and school activities.
 - Are at greater risk for promiscuity, alcohol and drug use.
 - May deny problems and worries,
 - Lowering academic expectations may be helpful; however, return to their usual school performance should be supported.
 - Sports and social activities should be encouraged to give normal structure to their life. Additional responsibility in the family, commensurate with their emotional maturity, will make them feel important and needed.



DoDDS Lesson Learned

School Bus Safety



- Significant force protection concern
- Two initiatives to begin later in 2003
 - GPS
 - Second Adult
- 27,000 (55%) of students utilize school bus transportation
- 60 contactors in place in 11 countries
- 1,000 routes, 2,500 daily runs, and 13,000 separate bus stops
- 20-30 students typically on bus
- Typical run is 25-30 minutes and 50 kilometers



Lessons Learned #1

Safe Schools

- Definition A: The school is Safe from violence.../Students are protected...
 - Guards
 - Bus Safety- GPS/Second Adult
 - Access Control
- Definition B: The School is a place the student may depend on to be consistent, reliable and focused on learning.
 - I.E. The school is free from continuous reminders of those things that are causing anxiety



Crisis Action Plan

- DS Manual 2943.3 School Action Plan for Crisis Intervention
- Plans in place in all locations
- Ready to implement
- DoDDS wants to be a team player/partner
- Connections and Coordination with Family Assistance/Support Centers
- Team of psychologists ready to deploy to needed sites
- Schools are a major player and are ready to collaborate with communities to help in any way
- Schools need to be included in information flow and casualty assistance when appropriate



Family Support



Principals and Staff:

- **Remain focused on business of learning and teaching**
- **Establish connections with Family Assistance/Support Center**
- **Coordinate Counseling and Crisis Management Support**
- **Coordinate with Rear Detachment Commanders**
- **Encourage and facilitate communication between deployed members and children in schools**
- **Provide facilities when feasible to support Family Assistance Centers**
- **Maintain a stable environment**



For More Information

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